

## Late Intelligence from Mexico.

We received (says the New Orleans Delta of the 18th, through the Havana papers brought by the barque Catharine, several interesting items of Mexican news of which we give full details below:

The most important of the news is the accounts given of the active preparations by the Mexicans in San Luis—the amount and character of their force—and their news of the condition and intentions of our army. Of course, many of the statements published in the Mexican journals are ridiculously false and absurd—such as the desertion of a whole brigade of our army, the destruction of our ranks by the typhus fever, &c.

The El Locomotor of the 27th ult. states that on the night of the 25th a boat from the squadron entered the port and set the national schooner Creolla on fire. She was at anchor under the mooring of San Juan de Ulloa. El Locomotor complains of the want of vigilance on the part of the commander of San Juan de Ulloa on this occasion.

According to the same paper, a schooner and a brig, anchored off Anton Lizardo, were wrecked on the 24th ult. Said vessels were two of those captured at Tabasco, and they were manned by nine American sailors, of whom five were drowned, and the other four were picked up on the coast and taken to Vera Cruz on the 26th. The commander of the detachment at Anton Lizardo was on the beach after the gale commenced, in order to afford assistance to the men on board the vessels. The brig was totally lost, and the schooner is ashore but in good order.

El Indicador of the 29th November, states that on the evening of the 28th four large boats, belonging to the U. S. man-of-war stationed at Isle Verde, came near the fort on the side of Don Miguel's battery. Their object seemed to be to take three or four large Mexican boats which were fastened near the aforesaid battery. As soon as the sentinel on the aforesaid battery saw the boats he informed his comrades, and a boat was despatched from the fort, filled with armed men, to watch the approaching lighters. When the Mexican boat came near those of the enemy, the latter drew off and fired two musket shots. On hearing the report two guns with shells were fired from the fort at the American boats, which retired immediately. Whether they sustained any damage or not is not known. The Mexican boat returned to the fort uninjured. From the city two guns were likewise fired, as a sign of alarm, the citizens believing that an engagement had taken place between the fort and the fleet.

Gen. Saffa published a decree on the 21st, prohibiting the introduction of such goods as should be imported through the ports in possession of the North Americans.

According to correspondents writing from San Luis de Potosi to several of the Mexican journals, it appears that Santa Anna had 28,000 men at that place, viz: 12,000 infantry, of regulars; 6,000 cavalry, well armed and mounted; and 10,000 cossacks, armed with swords and lances. Besides there were 12 pieces of artillery, none smaller than 24-pounders. Some 500 men and about 1,000 women were constantly fortifying the place, & from 200 to 300 men in fitting out arms, &c.

Besides the 28,000 men at San Luis de Potosi, it is said that Generals Valencia, Cortezar, and Pacheco, were at the Vale of San Francisco with 8,000 men, who could not find places to be lodged in at San Luis. Also another division, which will number nearly 8,000 men, was organizing at Tula. These troops, they say, are destined to attack the Americans at Tampico.

From the Locomotor of Nov. 28th we extract the following letter:

SAN LUIS POTOSI, Nov. 14, 1846.

Dear Comrade and Brother:—You may imagine how we feel here with the approach of the invaders. They took Saltillo yesterday, and they must also be in Tampico, as the mail for that place was stopped yesterday by order of Santa Anna. God knows what our fate will be, notwithstanding that we have 25,000 men, 52 pieces of artillery, from 24-pounders downward, very good ones, and a stock of powder and balls of all sizes, which is almost incredible. There are at work in the arsenal every day 200 smiths and carpenters, 500 men at work in the fortifications, and about 1,000 women from the town of Santiago and Tlascala, who work with the greatest enthusiasm, they take the bricks from their own houses to bring there. In one of the shops there were sold to women and men over 1,000 knives. Everywhere you see them making lances, repairing guns and every kind of war tools.

El Diario de la Marina of the 7th inst. publishes an extract of a letter dated Vera Cruz, 1st December, in which it is said that the mail sent by the British Minister for the Clyde brought the news that an extraordinary express had arrived at Mexico on the morning of the 29th, from San Luis Potosi, stating that a brigade of nearly 1,000 American soldiers had arrived there, with their arms and munitions, having deserted from the American army at Saltillo to join Santa Anna. By the aforesaid express the rumor of the typhus fever having attacked the American army was confirmed. On this account, it is said, Gen. Taylor had retired from Saltillo to Monterey.

A letter from Mazatlan of the 11th November, says, that the blockading of that port is nothing but "child's play"—that the sloop of war charged with the blockade could not prevent a Mexican schooner from entering there on the 2d ult., and since that she has not been seen; consequently, a foreign vessel entered on the 9th, loaded with provisions, and discharged her cargo, unmolested.

FROM YUCATAN.—The latest dates re-

ceived at Vera Cruz from Yucatan were of the 12th Nov. No positive information had been received from Merida, but it was expected that the late pronouncement of that city caused some disturbances, and that among those killed in these difficulties were Señores Barbachano (the Governor) and Montero.

From the St. Louis Reveille.

## Massacre of Americans in California.

This unhappy news appears, spite of all doubts, to be confirmed. The Intelligence publishes an official document from the Mexican Secretary of State to the Secretary of War, giving an account of the transaction, and also a more detailed version from a Mexican paper, the Monitor, which we copy:

Massacre of the North Americans at Ciudad de los Angeles—Mazatlan, Oct. 28th.—By the arrival of the French corvette of war La Brillante, from San Francisco and Monterey, of Upper California, we have the following important news: The necessity of covering that wide territory at many points, nearly all threatened by the Indians, has compelled the Americans to leave in each of them a most insignificant number of men; so that at Monterey, which, as the capitol, is the most important station to defend, there were only thirty soldiers; at San Francisco, where a block house has been erected, only 10 or 12 men.

At Los Angeles, formerly the seat of the political authorities of the territory, the Indians, uniting with the other inhabitants, fell upon and put to death one hundred and fifty soldiers of the American squadron; and this news, which is to a certain point confirmed by what we have previously published of the rising in that town, and seems a natural consequence of that movement, is authenticated from various trustworthy sources of information.

One hundred and fifty Mormons have arrived in California from the Sandwich Islands.

At Monterey is published a journal entitled itself "the Californian," and all its articles (which are in favor of the invaders) are written in Spanish.

The commander of the French vessel above mentioned, Count de Bussat, assures us that the North Americans are in the greatest dread lest the Mexican Government should send against them any force whatever, for they now see that they have made a very hazardous step in occupying California with such small means. He adds that, in his conception, they can dispose of no force with which to attempt Mazatlan.

From the St. Louis Reveille.

## SAD NEWS.

Loss of the U. S. brig Somers, off Vera Cruz, with forty of her company-officers and men.

On the 8th ult. in a tremendous squall, the Somers at the time being alone in the blockade of the harbor of Vera Cruz, she was driven on a reef at Green Island, and totally lost, with one-half of her crew. One boat got safely ashore, and then Capt. Semmes, finding the vessel settling under them, gave an order for every man to save himself. All simultaneously plunged into the water, and grasped the posts, gratings, spars, coops and other floating objects at hand. Many must have gone down from the want of any support whatever; others struggled on frail floats to be finally drifted on the reefs and dashed in pieces. Some were driven to sea to be heard of no more, and others encountered the worst fate which could be apprehended, in being devoured by sharks. Passed Midshipman Hyason, who so gallantly fired the Creole, under the walls of San Juan, we regret to say is among the lost.

The Morgan Dix, on coming out of Anton Lizardo, was boarded by an officer from the English frigate Endymion. He gave the information that it had been ascertained that eight more of the crew of the Somers had been picked up by the Mexicans, after being in the water no less than thirty hours on a hen-coop. Another party, numbering also eight, is said to have reached the shore in the same manner, one of whom died after landing from exhaustion. What number of these two parties—whether both or only the former—are now in the hands of the Mexicans, is not understood. The English and French vessels made the most gallant efforts to save the crew of the Somers. The Mexicans from the walls of the castle beheld the catastrophe, uttering at the same time shouts of joy.

List of Officers and men lost in the Somers.

Henry A. Clemens. Acting Master. John Ringgold Hynson. Passed Midshipman.

Wm. G. Brazier, Ebenezer Terrell, Chas. H. Haven, James Ryder, James Thompson, Charles Lowe, Thomas Young, William Gillan, Mathias Gravel, Major Cain, Dennis Kelly, Alexander Anker, Chas. McFarland, James Fennel, Charles True, John Bay, William Purdy, Edward McCormick, Wm. Elmsley; Wm. Quest, John Hargrave, Wm. F. Cardy, John Christopher Myers, Clement C. Willen, Thomas McCowan, Joseph Antonio, Adolph Belmonte, Manuel Howard, Wm. W. Powers, Henry W. Spear, James Chapman, Lewis Johnson, Ignatius Leopold, Thomas Jefferson, Wm. H. Rose, Peter Hernandez.

Correspondence of the Picayune.

MONTEREY, Nov. 25, 1846.

Gentlemen:—Gen. Taylor arrived from Saltillo day before yesterday, (23d inst.) escorted by one squadron of Col. May's horse, having left one squadron in Saltillo. The General succeeded in having captured one hundred pack mules, with their cargoes, consisting of subsistence stores intended for Santa Anna's army at San Luis Potosi. The squadron left are said to be in pursuit of four hundred mules, loaded also with the same cargoes.

Col. May had a very severe fall at Saltillo, by his horse tripping on the pavement which inclines towards the centre from each side. He is doing well, and will be ready for duty in a few days.

Santa Anna is said to be very strong in San Luis, having some 30,000 volunteers, besides his regulars. Reports, however, are conflicting. The Mexicans are disappearing daily from this neighborhood—no doubt to join Santa Anna. The gamblers are collecting here in great numbers from Matamoras.

## JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILL.

Tuesday, January 12, 1847.

## The War with Mexico.

There has been a warm discussion in the House of Representatives, of the U. S., on some resolutions referring the President's Message to the standing committee, in which this war has been the topic. For several months past, a large portion of the Whig press have been denouncing the war in which this country is now engaged, as unjust and aggressive on the part of the United States. This opposition to the war has now been carried into our national legislature. That party, which has produced so many opponents to every war that this country has been engaged in, since the revolution, is at this time advocating the cause of our enemy with the utmost vehemence. What can be the cause of this is a question which every true American should ask himself.

Experience, we think, should convince those who expect to gain popularity by such a course, of its utter fruitlessness. Then why should they assume this position, unless it is an opposition to our present system of Government? The President is charged with commencing this war; and is represented as an "usurper" and a "tyrant" in all his movements for its prosecution, since its commencement. But where are the grounds for these charges? Did he not in his message of May last, declare that war existed by the act of Mexico herself? And did not Congress, in the same month, (as the Journals will show,) pass a bill in which this declaration was contained? But, notwithstanding, a bill was passed, by only fourteen dissenting votes in the House and two in the Senate, still its commencement is charged on the Administration. Those very members who voted for this bill, preamble and all, are now declaring that the war was begun by the President, and that it has been carried on by him. The war was, in fact, commenced by Mexico, as has been declared, and Congress voted supplies and placed them at the disposal of the President for its prosecution; and for carrying out the very measures which Congress clothed him with power to do, he is denounced by these very men for obeying their own commands. "Consistency, O consistency! what a jewel thou art!"

It is to be regretted that Mexico has so many friends in this republic, at this time, whose denunciations against the war are calculated to do this country great injury. The appeals and declarations that have been made in behalf of Mexico, by those in high places, "that they were in the right and we in the wrong," have done more to encourage our enemy, than any thing else could do. While at the same time it is calculated to unnerve the arms of our volunteers, to tell them they are engaged in an unholy contest. Poor encouragement to the gallant soldier, to tell him, "you fought bravely, but you were in the wrong." The patriotism of those Congressmen who say they are willing to vote supplies for the war, while at the same time they will reserve to themselves the right to express their opinions against it, must truly be magnificent. We were in hopes of seeing more unanimity at this important crisis of our national affairs, in Congress, than has yet been manifested. If this country desires a speedy peace, she must furnish less extracts for the Mexican press in relation to our being the aggressors.

We have examined the President's message and accompanying documents, in reply to Mr. Davis' resolution calling for information concerning the instructions of the War and Navy Departments, to our officers in California, New Mexico, &c. The message declares that no instructions have been given which were not clearly authorized by the law of nations. The organization of the government by Gen. Kearney, in New Mexico, so far as it relates to the establishment of permanent territorial government, has not been approved by the President. The official information in relation to this organization, was not in the possession of the President at the time he submitted his annual message.

Gen. Scott arrived at New Orleans on the 19th ult., and was to have left for the Rio Grande on the 23d.

THE PRAIRIE ARGUS.—There has been a new Democratic paper started in Jacksonville, in this State, bearing the above title. It is published by Messrs. Barlow & Abbot, and is edited by the former gentleman. The number before us evinces a considerable degree of talent, and the typographical arrangement is workmanlike and neat. We wish the Argus all the success which its neat appearance, and its correct principles entitle it to.

AURORA BEACON.—This is the title of a new paper, which has been started in Aurora. It is edited by Messrs. M. V. & B. F. Hall. Judging from the first number it will be a paper worthy of patronage.

VERA CRUZ.—A descent upon this important position, seems to be decided upon by the Government as the next movement for our army. It is said that the descent will be made from the rear, and that our forces will concentrate at the mouth of the Antigua river, which empties into the Gulf a short distance north of Vera Cruz, and ascend it to where the road to Jalapa crosses. The avenues to Vera Cruz from that point it is stated, can be fully commanded, and an attack made on the city with a certainty of success.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—The convention recently sitting in Wisconsin to form a State Constitution, by a vote of 55 to 22 adopted a clause prohibiting the death penalty. Confinement in the State's Prison for life, has been substituted in its place, without the power of pardon, reprieve, or commutation. It is said an attempt was afterwards made, which would likely be successful to leave the matter for legislation, after this expression of the views of the convention.

There is a rumor that a proposition has been submitted by the President and the Secretary of War, to Col. Benton and the friends of Silas Wright and John J. Crittenden, to constitute them Board of Commissioners, to proceed to Mexico, and try by some means or other, to bring about a peace by negotiation.

THE WEATHER.—The season, which has been unusually mild up to this time, has suddenly changed and we now have winter in earnest. It commenced snowing on last Tuesday night, and continued during the following day. Sleighing is now good for the first time since the commencement of winter, and from the number of sleds, and cutters which may be seen in our streets, we should judge that our citizens were improving the benefits to be derived from it.

The President has appointed James Gladson, of South Carolina, Brigadier General to command the volunteers from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

It is said that the prize-money accruing from the various prizes taken at the capture of Tabasco and Tampico, amounts to two hundred and twenty thousand dollars. The Government gets one-half of this sum, the officers and crews the other.

The Senate has confirmed the appointment of John Y. Mason, of Virginia, as Secretary of the Navy, in place of George Bancroft, resigned.

DEATH OF A UNITED STATES SENATOR.—The Hon. Alexander Barrow, one of the Senators from Louisiana, died at Baltimore on the 29th ult. The Senate after the resolutions customary on such occasions were passed, adjourned till the next day.

The Governor has appointed Abijah Rowley, Notary Public for this county.

NEW POST OFFICE.—A Post Office has been established at Barber's Corner, in this county, and A. C. Paxon appointed Post Master.

HARBOR AND RIVER BILL.—A new Harbor and River Bill has been introduced into the House, by Mr. McClelland Chairman of the Committee on Commerce.

TOLLS OF THE OHIO CANALS.—The tolls of the Ohio Canals this year, amount to more than one hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars over the receipts of the last year.

OHIO.—The official vote for Governor at the late election has at last been ascertained. Bibb, whig, received 118,857 votes; Todd, democrat 116,489; Lewis, abolition, 10,799 votes.

Twelve million acres of the Public Lands, are advertised for sale, in April next, which at \$1.25 per acre, will amount to fifteen millions.

It is stated that Professor Morse has invented a new system of marking by electricity, more expeditious than the present mode.

The whigs of the 7th Congressional district have selected the Hon. William Brown, of Morgan Co., as their candidate to fill the vacancy, in Congress, occasioned by Col. Baker's resignation.

## Legislative Correspondence.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 1st, 1847.

MESSRS. EDITORS:

Yesterday the House, in committee of the whole, had under consideration a bill passed by the Senate, relating to the Massac difficulties. Its provisions were mainly for the purpose of authorizing a special term of Court to be held in Massac county, on the 3d Monday of January, by Judge Scates, (who, by the way, it is said will resign his office,) which court is to be attended by an armed force, to be dispatched by the Governor to protect the court and people—to which end the sum of \$10,000 is appropriated by the bill. The accused are to have no change of venue, and no continuance except under great restriction. The bill finds but little favor in the House, and will doubtless be there rejected. It is not believed necessary as yet to administer the law at the point of the sword, nor to deprive the citizens of Massac County, of the privileges enjoyed by other citizens of the State. Still, the spirit of insubordination which is abroad, must be checked, or our State is ruined. Some efficient plan will doubtless be settled upon before many days; though as for having fair trials in Massac county, it is believed to be out of the question. An impartial jury, most probably, could not be obtained. The only course left is to annex that county for judicial purposes, to some other.

To-day, notwithstanding it is the first day of the year, the House has been in constant session, still debating upon the Massac difficulties. There is a great difference of opinion as to the best mode of remedying existing evils and providing against future disturbances, which renders it impossible to pass the subject over hastily.

The notorious Bonney has been acquitted by a United States Court Jury. The U. S. Court is still in session, and will continue so for some time to come.

The Hon. R. M. Young arrived here a day or two since, he having been detained at home in consequence of sickness. The Supreme bench is now full with the exception of Judge Scates who has not yet been at the capitol.

Several members are yet absent, though the House has succeeded in keeping a quorum, with the exception of a day or two. The Senate have also a quorum. The Legislature did not adjourn for the holiday's, as the fact that the House has been in session all this day, will prove. There is a general desire to get through the business as soon as possible. There has been nothing but mud here; though the prospect is now fair for a "freeze."

It is not impossible that two vacancies may occur in the Supreme Bench, in the course of the winter, though there is yet nothing certain about it. If that should happen there will be no trouble in finding candidates for the stations, judging from present appearances.

The House has passed a bill increasing the pay of County Commissioners to the old standard. I was pleased to notice in your last paper, that petitions were in circulation for the improvement of the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers. These improvements should be made, to afford a rich country at present entirely inland, the facilities for market. Your members will doubtless do all in their power, to advance so useful a work; indeed, I understood from one of them, that he was already preparing a bill for that purpose.

Yours, &c., B.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 5th, 1847.

DEAR SIR:

Another of the members of the House of Representatives was consigned to the grave yesterday. Mr. Rhodes (representative from Pope Co.) died in the evening of Sunday last, and his funeral took place yesterday in the Hall of Representatives, at half past two o'clock. It was thought by his friends to be impossible to convey his remains to his family, owing to the bad state of the roads and the great distance from the capitol of his residence; he was therefore interred in the burying ground of this city, leaving his family to mourn in unmingled sorrow. He left a wife and two small children. His age was about 22 years. He had been sheriff of the county he represented, several terms.

Thus within one week, two members of the House have gone to their final rest. Mr. West, representative from Sangamon county, is said to be so low that doubts are entertained about his recovery. He has been ill for some time.

The House passed a bill to day for holding a special term of court in Massac county not very different from the Senate bill on the same subject. The change of venue privilege is allowed by it as amended by the House. This measure is intended to operate only on the past. For the future, a new measure is being prepared. A large number of bills were passed to a third reading.

I heard Mr. Little of your place, introduce a Bill this morning for the incorporation of the Kankakee River Navigation Company. It was ordered to a second reading.

I think the measure is one of great consequence to your part of the country, and if your members can procure its adoption, they will be rendering an essential service. But great care will, in my opinion, be requisite about the matter, since there has usually been a disposition to add to and ride bills for incorporations until they were made useless.

Would it not be well for your people, who are interested, to petition on the subject? Indeed I think I saw a notice in the Signal that petitions were in circulation. Some effort was made yesterday in the House to increase the salaries of the 11,000 judges, to an equality with the old incumbents, but it proved unsuccessful. The House was not full, I should think a simple act of justice, would yet, in this respect, be done.

Yours, &c., K.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 6th, 1847.

MESSRS. EDITORS:

The Senate have been acting on diverse bills to-day. A Resolution was proposed to receive no new business after the 20th inst., and that they would adjourn on the first Monday in February; but it was promptly laid on the table. Still the general feeling seems to be to adjourn as soon as possible. There has been so much sickness among members that a feeling of gloom to some extent prevails, causing men to think of their homes.

The Senate adopted a resolution that they would make no new counties this session. There is a strong feeling against cutting up the state into more counties, many thinking that great evils arise therefrom.

The House have been engaged to-day in passing to a second and third reading diverse bills which had been introduced—many of them of a local character.

An effort was made to repeal or change the interest law, so as to allow ten per cent when specially contracted for, on money loaned. If this measure should succeed, of course the clause "for money loaned" would be inserted in every promissory note, even if it was given for an O.K. this could be done, as the same bill provides that the debtor should not be a witness. But it is doubtful about its passage or success.

The House also refused to lay on the table a bill repealing the law making it penal to pass bills smaller than five dollars, by quite a majority. The law is considered wholly inoperative and useless, and if enforced now, oppressive. But to enforce it is considered out of the question.

Winter has come on here in earnest, the weather being at present excessively cold. Yours, &c., O.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 7, 1847.

SIR:—But little progress has been made by the legislature in the apportionment of the State, for either the Convention or the next Session of the General Assembly, some points it is true have been attempted both by bill and resolution, but no serious demonstration has been made in either House, as yet, that bears any prospect of success; a general impression exists that much time will be consumed after those questions are reached, before they can be satisfactorily arranged.

The people of your section of the State will regret to hear that no alteration of the interest law, is likely to be made at this session; the House, on yesterday, having laid on the table, a bill authorizing ten per cent. interest on money loaned.

A bill repealing the present law for the appointment of Canal Land Agents, has passed the House; the bill I believe authorizes the State Trustee to appoint the agents, and restores the former law, which includes that provision.

The Senate by resolution have determined it to be inexpedient to create any new Counties at this session, and have also laid on the table, a resolution to receive no new business after the 20th inst., and fixing on the first Monday of February for the adjournment.

The bill which passed the Senate, some days since, containing provisions for the suppression of difficulties in Massac Co., after lingering in the House for some days in an uncertain state, was returned to the Senate, so amended as to leave but few of its original features. Owing to the bad state of the roads, or some other cause, nothing has been heard from the scene of the disturbances for a number of days, and the worst apprehensions are entertained upon the subject of affairs there at this time.

A bill for refunding the fine imposed on Judge Pearson, for alleged contempt of the Supreme Court, some years since, has been ordered to a third reading in the Senate.

Since New Years, both Houses have gone to work in earnest, and are despatching business rapidly. A large number of bills have been introduced, many of which have passed the House in which they originated, and there is no danger but that as many laws will be enacted as the wants of the people require.

A bill has passed the Senate, conferring upon the voters of District No. 1 of your Township, the privilege of voting a tax of not exceeding fifty cents upon each \$100 of taxable property in the district, for the purpose of building a School House. Some are in favor of inserting a general provision of the kind in the School Law; very properly regarding it as a privilege not likely to be abused. And yet, it is very doubtful if any such provision will pass, as in some quarters of the state, it meets with firm opposition.

Quite a mania prevails all over the state for charters, for companies to build rail roads and improve rivers. Petitions to the Legislature for that purpose are flocking in; a number of bills, incorporating companies of that kind, have been introduced, and the bill incorporating a company for the improvement of the Wabash river has passed both Houses. It is certainly an earnest, promising well for the success of Illinois, that these objects are receiving attention, and it is believed that charters may be granted, fully equal to the purpose, and free from the objections which have been urged against similar enterprises.

To-morrow being the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, the House has adjourned over until Saturday; and the Senate will likely meet in the morning.

We have experienced severe cold weather for a few days—attended with manifest improvement in the health of the place.

It has been suggested that a constant reader and admirer of the New York Tribune for a twelve month, would become so alien in all his feelings and sympathies, that it would be necessary for him to take out naturalization papers, in order to exercise the right of suffrage.